

give to the poor ; and come, follow me " ?

This then, I take it, is conversion. There is nothing so very wonderful about it : there is no electric shock to be experienced. A great deal of the noise which accompanies many conversions is not at all an essential part of conversion ; it is often nothing more than the outcome of mere sensuous excitement ; while many conversions which are the quietest are in the end the truest and the most genuine. This then is conversion—simply beginning life over again on a higher plane with Christ and not ourself as the centre of our life. At our natural birth we began life with self as the centre : at conversion or the new birth we begin life over again with Christ as the centre. This then is regeneration, the being born again into the higher and fuller and nobler life of unselfish devotion to our Saviour. This then is the true Christian position, a being held to Christ by the magnetic force of His almighty love and having all our

actions constrained by the power of His divine sympathy.

Then and not till then has the kingdom of heaven been established within us. Then and not till then have we been lifted up by God's Holy Spirit from the carnal to the spiritual realm, from the temporal to the eternal life, from the low base of selfishness to the higher platform of Christ-like sympathy with others. Then and not till then have we entered into partnership with Christ in His great work of the amelioration and salvation of the world. Then and not till then do we carry about in our spirits love and sympathy for the fallen which are the true marks of the Lord Jesus. Then and not till then have we filled up in ourselves what was behind of the afflictions of Christ, by taking upon us, as He did, the sins of the fallen and the burdens of the fainting and the sufferings of the unfortunate. Then and not till then have we been saved into the Eternal Life of Love—rich, generous, disinterested Love—which is the true kingdom of God and of His Christ.

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